

Message Text

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ACTION SSM-05

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SINAI 0125

DEPT FOR SSM ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OPOL, UN

SUBJECT: UN USE SFM FACILITIES

1. COL. PARKER, CHIEF COORDINATOR FOR UN MILITARY OBSERVERS SERV-
ING IN THE SINAI UNDER UNEF, VISITED SFM JANUARY 16 WITH LT. COL.
PECK, CHIEF OF THE UNMO'S WORKING IN EARLY WARNING AREA.

2. THEY EXPLAINED RELUCTANTLY THAT QUOTE CERTAIN SENSITIVITIES
WITHIN UNEF END QUOTE OBLIGED THEM TO SUSPEND FOR AN INDEFINITE
TIME THE VISIT OF UNMO'S TO SFM FOR MEALS OR USE OF OUR RECREA-
TIONAL FACILITIES.

3. IT APPEARS THAT UNMO'S HAVE CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONAL ADVANTAGES
--PER DIEM, ACCOMPANYING FAMILIES, ROTATING ASSIGNMENTS--WHICH
MAKE THEM A SOMEWHAT PRIVILEGED GROUP WITHIN UN CIRCLES. THEIR
USE OF SFM FACILITIES, WHICH ARE NOT READILY ACCESSIBLE TO MOST
OTHER UN UNITS, SEEMS TO HAVE INCREASED COMMENTS ABOUT UNMO'S'
ADVANTAGED POSITION. THERE ARE ALSO, IT IS SUGGESTED, SOME
DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN UNMO'S AND THIS PARTICULAR GHANBATT CONTIN-
GENT. (WE WELCOME GHANBATT OFFICERS, BUT THE PRESENT GROUP HAS
USED SFM FACILITIES VERY SPARINGLY.)

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PAGE 02 SINAI 00125 191026Z

4. WITHOUT HAVING DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH UNEF COMMANDER GENER-
AL RAIS ABIN, COL. PARKER SAID HE FELT IT BEST TO MINIMIZE SOURCES
OF FRICTION WITHIN THE UN. HE HOPED THE SUSPENSION WOULD BE
TEMPORARY AND HAS ASSIGNED THE UNMO ATTACHED TO GHANBATT HQ
RESPONSIBILITY FOR LIAISON WITH SFM AND COORDINATION OF UNMO
ACTIVITY IN THE EARLY WARNING AREA.

5. COL. PARKER STRESSED THAT THERE WERE NO PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE UN AND SFM AND THAT HE FULLY APPRECIATES THE OPERATIONAL CONTACTS PROVIDED BY UNMO VISITS. INDIVIDUAL UNMO'S REFLECT THE SAME VIEW AND HAVE EXPRESSED REGRET THAT AN ALL OR NONE APPROACH IS REQUIRED.

6. I INFORMED COL. PARKER THAT SFM HAD BEEN PLEASED TO SHARE ITS FACILITIES WITH THE UNMO'S AND THAT WE FELT THAT THE DIRECT CONTACT AT SFM SERVED NOT ONLY TO ENHANCE OUR LIAISON WITH THIS IMPORTANT GROUP BUT ALSO SERVED TO MAKE SFM THAT MUCH MORE ACCEPTABLE TO INDIVIDUALS WITHIN THE UN WHO DID NOT HAVE THE SAME QUALITY OF HOUSING, FOOD, ETC. WE HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY SATISFIED WITH THE ARRANGEMENT SINCE WE INSTITUTED A PASS SYSTEM EARLY LAST FALL AND INsofar AS WE CAN TELL, THE UN PERSONNEL HAVE NOT MISUSED THE PASSES AUTHORIZED IN ANY WAY. I TOLD PARKER THAT IYALSO HOPED THAT THIS WOULD BE A TEMPORARY MEASURE. HUNT

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